



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,979	09/12/2003	David L. Gates	DLG-001	6118
25962	7590	06/24/2004	EXAMINER	
SLATER & MATSIL, L.L.P. 17950 PRESTON RD, SUITE 1000 DALLAS, TX 75252-5793			RAMIREZ, RAMON O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	

DATE MAILED: 06/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,979

Applicant(s)

GATES ET AL.

Examiner

RAMON O. RAMIREZ

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,9,10,12-14,16 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,4,6-8,11 and 15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

This is the first Office Action corresponding to original filing. Claims 1-22 are active.

Drawings

The drawings have been accepted by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 12-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dexel (Pat No 6,427,885).

The patent to Dexel shows, at Fig 24, a bracket device comprising a first plate (72) having holes (74), and a first male threaded member (76) welded and extending from the plate; and
a second plate (60) having a second member (20) extending from the second plate and having a second female threaded member (30) for receiving the first threaded member (76).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 9, 10, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dexel.

Claim 5 recites and obvious reversal of parts of the male/female threads.

As to claim 9, the dimension of the holes is considered to be an obvious matter of engineering choice accordingly to the specific use.

As to claim 10, the location of the holes is also a matter of engineering choice directly dependent on the use to be given to the device.

As to claim 17, to weld the member to the plate would also be an obvious matter of engineering to avoid loosening the threaded member.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 11 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 18-22 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the art of record discloses the combination of recited in claim 1 having shoulder portions, or an extension member as recited herein; neither a container holder kit attachable to spare tire having the particulars recited in claim 19.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Anderson et al. (4,771,926), Sheridan et al. (5,137,192), Kincart (5,806,736), Grabowski et al. (6,098,855) and Wilkens (US 2004/0079778 A1) show devices of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner **Ramírez** at telephone number (703) 308-0748. The examiner can be normally reached on Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays.

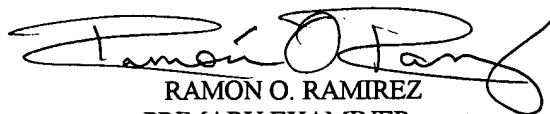
The fax numbers for this Group are (703) 872-9306 (official papers), and (703) 308-3519 (unofficial papers).

Any inquiry of general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Art Unit: 3632

A shortened period for response to this Office Action expires **THREE MONTHS**
from the mailing date of this action.

R.O.RAMIREZ
June 15, 2004



RAMON O. RAMIREZ
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600
ART UNIT 3632